



THE DELTA: A SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY
MASTERCLASS WITH MAGDALENA SOLE

“I first visited the Delta in 2009, and, in a sense, I have never left. Or more precisely, the Delta has never left me. Such is the magical spell cast by the place and the people who live in that slender stretch of fertile flat land in northwestern Mississippi. It is a place where lives are shaped by a close attachment to the land, by the unhurried rhythms of the season, and by the shared memories of a tortured past. There is something about the Delta people that goes to the very heart of what it means to be human. Perhaps nowhere else in America do such extremes in ways of life and emotional history exist so intimately.”

– Magdalena Solé

TRIP DURATION:
8 days, 7 nights

DATES:
June 22-30, 2015

ACCOMMODATIONS: Seven Chimneys Farm

PRICE: \$2,695 USD for tuition only.

Accommodations, travel-tickets, car-rental and meals are not included. We encourage people to rent cars in groups. Before the beginning of the workshop we will give out a list of all the participants so you can get in touch with each other



The workshop in the Mississippi Delta is a photographic exploration of the Delta communities in the Deep South, evoking visions of sharecroppers, plantations and the sound of the Blues. The area has a small wealthy gentry and a large impoverished underclass living in dilapidated houses and tilting trailers. What is little known is the warmth, resilience, community and family cohesiveness of its people.

To apply for admission, please submit 10 photographs of a single series. Class is limited to 8 students.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

For professional or advanced photographers alike, the workshop begins with reviews of each photographer's work as a point of departure for a larger discussion about photography. Magdalena Solé, author of "New Delta Rising (University Press of Mississippi, 2012) will explore a series of topics: the grammar of photography; how to photograph in cultures other than one's own; how to edit photographs so they reveal a story; how to get close to the people you are photographing. This workshop will emphasize the development of a unique, personal way of seeing and the development of an intuitive way of editing your photographs. We will also discuss with participants how to take their work to the next level.

Attendees should bring fifteen prints of a single series to the first day of class for review. Please bring prints only, not photographs displayed on a screen.

Each day will be filled with photographing, a lecture or presentation, editing and review of student's work from the previous day. Magdalena will give each participant an individual assignment, a specific technique to master during the workshop. Emphasis is placed on identifying areas of weakness and improving your photography.

The last evening we will have a slideshow featuring each participant's work for a wider audience of invited guests. We will also meet local photographers.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION & ITINERARY

Our base will be at beautiful Seven Chimneys Farm in Stovall, near Clarksdale, Mississippi. Seven Chimneys has six resident dogs.

Accommodations are available in individual cabins at Seven Chimneys Farm and also in nearby Clarksdale at the Shack Up Inn, or the Clark House. For those on a very tight budget there is the Uptown Motor Inn. We will send out a list of all accommodations with special workshop rates.

We would very much like you to join us for dinner every evening. Except for the welcome dinner, individuals will be responsible for the cost of their meals.

Sorry, unless you bring your own mobile hotspot you will not have access to the Internet. Cell service works in the major towns and at the farm.

The first day will start on **June 22nd** at 6pm and finish in the morning of **June 30th**.

The next day we will meet at 9 am for a portfolio review and talk by Magdalena. Bring around 15 prints (not digital files) of your best images. After lunch the group will start shooting.

During the following days, after breakfast, the group will meet at 9:30am with Magdalena for an edit and critique session of the work previously shot. Before that you are expected to be out photographing in the field to catch the early morning light.

After the review sessions, we will leave for a day of shooting. Please note that most days you will have the option to join the group on our itinerary to explore the Delta, or if you prefer to go out on your own, that is an option too. The last two days of the workshop you will be asked to return to the place that you liked the most and deepen the work you started there by yourself.

Edit and critique sessions are the best time to ask questions and when you will improve your vision. Magdalena is going to pick some of the best images and tell you why they are effective. Each day you will also get a special assignment to improve your way of seeing and discuss techniques to become more proficient when photographing people.

REQUIREMENTS

This workshop is for advanced and professional photographers only.

All participants must bring a digital camera, a laptop computer, a backup drive, a memory stick, and sufficient memory cards and batteries to shoot for an entire day.

Participants have to be proficient in Lightroom or Aperture and have one of the two programs installed on their computer. They have to be self sufficient in downloading images and managing their files. We will only work in RAW, participants should know how to size an image as well as how to dodge and burn. The workshop is limited to 8 participants to allow for maximum individualized attention.

Shooting film is fine, but please also bring your digital camera, as film developing is near impossible in the Delta unless you bring a portable developer and scanner.

Documentary Photography requires long days, lots of walking, carrying your own equipment and along the way there are few amenities.

You have to have a car, but you are encouraged to car pool or rent a car with other participants.

We encourage people to read "New Delta Rising" before the workshop. It will give participants a sense of the places we will be photographing.

ABOUT MAGDALENA SOLE



Magdalena Magdalena Sole is a social documentary photographer. She is best known for her vibrant and complex color work. Visual language has been her life's work. In 1989 she founded TransImage, a

graphic design studio, in New York City. In 2002 she graduated with a Masters of Fine Art in Film from Columbia University. Her last film, "Man On Wire", on which she was the Unit Production Manager, won an Oscar in 2009. She has taught in Europe and the US.

Her projects span the globe. Her current work includes: Kamagasaki — a photo documentary on the shunned elderly day laborers of Japan. Japan — "After the Water Receded", an exploration of the aftermath of the great 2011 Tohoku disaster, which was shown at the Sidney Mishkin Gallery in April 2012 in New York City. Most recently her photographs of the Mississippi Delta have been selected as a PDN Photo Annual 2011 Finalist. Her book "New Delta Rising", published by the University Press of Mississippi, was released in February 2012. It has won the Silver Award in 2011 at PX3 Prix de la Photographie, France. She is also winner of the Silver Prize 2011 at Slow Exposures, Concord, GA. Other shows in 2012 are Voices from Japan at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City, Dante and the Delta at Doma Gallery in Charlotte, NC, The Delta at WilJax Gallery in Cleveland, MS, and Sous Les Étoiles in New York City. The Mississippi Delta is on view until February 22, 2013 at the Leica Gallery in New York.

Born in Spain, raised in Switzerland, she arrived in New York City in 1984, where she lives with her family. She speaks seven languages.

www.solepictures.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

To reserve space in this workshop, a \$500 per person deposit is required at the time of making the reservation. Deposits are due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Final payment is due no later than 60 days prior to departure unless indicated otherwise in the description of the tour or workshop. All payments must be made by credit card or wire transfer to Photo Xpeditions, LLC,

and instructions for payments will be mailed upon confirmation of participation.

Photo Xpeditions reserves the right to cancel a reservation if full payment has not been received by 60 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 60 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If you cancel 90 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee equal to 50% of your deposit will be made. Per person charges for cancellations that occur less than 90 days prior to departure are as follows:

60–90 days prior to departure: 100% of your deposit amount;

45–60 days prior to departure: 50% of the expedition cost;

45 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the workshop cost.

PhotoXpeditions reserves the right of canceling the workshop at any time if the minimum amount of students required for the workshop is not reached. If a workshop needs to be cancelled for this reason, a full refund will be given to all participants.

If you need more information or have questions, give us a call or drop us an email, we will respond promptly.

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